

SEP 26 2007 S/N 10/518,864

REMARKS:

Counsel for Applicants thank Examiner Gravini for the courtesy and advice extended during the telephone interview held on September 21, 2007. During the interview, Examiner Gravini suggested that Applicants file an amendment to clarify and more distinctly point out the claimed invention concerning the provision of a nitrogen-depleted stream of gas and the use of the nitrogen-depleted gas in the used and re-heated streams of gas claimed invention. This amendment is therefore presented, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims in light of the substantive discussion during the interview and the remarks below.

Claims 1 – 20 are pending. Upon entry of this amendment, independent claims 1, 13 and 20, and various dependent claims, have been amended to more distinctly point out and claim the invention, which specifically utilizes a nitrogen-depleted gas mixture to dry materials in a specific manner. Support for the amendments may be found in paragraph 21 of the specification (as published), and no new matter has been introduced.

This amendment should provide clarification for the Patent Office which shows that the previously discussed Merten, Smith, Prasad, McClenney, and Jaynes references are completely inapplicable to the present invention. These various references, therefore, alone or in combination, do not anticipate and do not render obvious the present invention as claimed, and the rejection of the claims should be withdrawn. In addition, because the remaining dependent claims incorporate by reference all of the limitations of the corresponding independent claims, all of the dependent claims are also allowable over the cited references.

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On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the application is believed to be warranted, and an early action toward that end is respectfully solicited. In addition, for any issues or concerns, the Examiner is invited to call the attorney for the Applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

George Svonja

By



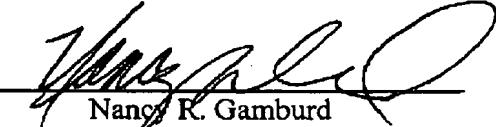
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment And Response Accompanying a Request for Continued Examination (8 pages), Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal (PTO/SB/30) (2 pages, original plus 1 copy), Fee Transmittal (PTO/SB/17) (1 page), and Petition for Extension of Time (PTO/SB/22) (2 pages, original plus 1 copy) (13 pages total), for George Svonja, Serial No. 10/518,864, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Drying", have been transmitted by facsimile to the US Patent and Trademark Office to fax number (571) 273-8300 (Centralized Facsimile Number), on September 26, 2007.



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